

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 23-33, 35-40 and 49-53 are allowable, and that Claims 9, 13-14, 30, 45 and 60 would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims from which they depend.

The status of all claims is indicated above. By way of this amendment Applicants are canceling Claims 2, 11-12, 14, 19-20, 31-32, 38-39, 42-43 and 46, without prejudice. Independent Claims 1, 41, 47, 48 and 54 are presently rejected, and each is hereby amended to recite that the claimed filter element or first filter segment includes an outer and an inner element. Independent Claim 59 is also presently rejected and hereby amended to recite an outer filter element disposed concentrically around an inner filter element. Support for the recitation of the outer and inner elements in the presently amended independent claims is found, *inter alia*, at pages 11-12, paragraph 44 of the specification. The prior art of record does not disclose a filter element or segment that includes outer and inner elements in combination with the other claim elements and limitations as recited in the independent claims. Dependent Claims 4, 6, 15, 17, 22, 33, 55 and 56 are amended to change dependency and/or modify the recited elements to conform to the amendments made to the independent claims from which they each depend.

Applicants have also amended Claims 23, 35 and 37 to correct for lack of an antecedent basis for the certain claim elements. With respect to dependant Claims 35 and 37, the lack of antecedent basis arose from typographical errors in the recitation of the base claim which is corrected to be Claim 24 instead of Claim 23.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of, and objections to, Claims 1, 3-10, 13, 15-18, 21-22, 41, 44-45, 47-48 and 54-60 be withdrawn and the present application be allowed with all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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